

MAY 07 2007

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 7, 2007. Claims 1 to 12, 18 and 20 to 25 are pending in the application, with Claims 13 to 17 and 19 having been cancelled. Claims 1 to 12, 18, 20 and 23 have been amended, and Claims 1, 7, 18, 20 and 23 are in independent form. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7, 18, 20 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for alleged indefiniteness. In particular, it was alleged that the phrase "attribute prepared in advance" is unclear.

The amendments to the claims are seen to address this rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,363,480 (Usami) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,895,477 (Orr); and Claims 20 to 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Orr. Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns processing of document data. According to one feature of the invention, a selection of an attribute to be employed as an attribute of a new chapter is accepted, wherein the selection is between an attribute of an original chapter and another predetermined attribute, and wherein the selection is instructed using a selection menu screen.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 1 as amended is directed to a document processing apparatus for a structured document including at least one chapter having a specific attribute, wherein each of the at least one chapter contains at

least one page, and each of the at least one page has a print attribute. The apparatus comprises a display controller which controls display of an object as an image indicating at least one original page contained in the document, and an instruction accepting unit which accepts an instruction from a user to divide an original chapter including pages, on a screen on which the object is displayed as the image by the display controller. The apparatus also comprises an editor which edits the document so as to generate a new chapter containing a page moved from the original chapter and to insert the new chapter into the document in accordance with the instruction accepted by the instruction accepting unit. In addition, the apparatus comprises a selection accepting unit which accepts a selection of an attribute to be employed as an attribute of the new chapter, wherein the selection is between an attribute of the original chapter and another predetermined attribute, and wherein the selection is instructed using a selection menu screen, and a setting unit which sets an attribute of the new chapter in accordance with the selection accepted by the selection accepting unit.

Independent Claims 7 and 18 as amended are respectively directed to a method and a program which are seen to generally correspond with Claim 1.

Independent Claim 20 as amended is directed to a document processing apparatus for processing document data containing chapters, each of which contains pages. The apparatus comprises obtainment means for obtaining data containing pages, and generation means for, when the obtainment means has obtained data containing pages, generating a new chapter which is different from chapters currently contained in the document data and which contains the pages obtained by the obtainment means. The apparatus also comprises selection accepting means for accepting a selection of an attribute

to be employed as an attribute of the new chapter generated by the generation means, wherein the selection is between an attribute of an original chapter and another predetermined attribute, and wherein the selection is instructed using a selection menu screen. In addition, the apparatus comprises setting means for setting an attribute of the new chapter generated by the generation means in accordance with the selection accepted by the selection accepting means.

Independent Claim 23 as amended is directed to a method which is seen to generally correspond with Claim 20.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the invention of the subject application. In particular, Usami and Orr are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of accepting a selection of an attribute to be employed as an attribute of a new chapter, wherein the selection is between an attribute of an original chapter and another predetermined attribute, and wherein the selection is instructed using a selection menu screen.

As understood by Applicants, Usami discloses a document processing apparatus which displays layouts of several pages of the documents on page basis in the respective rectangular layout display areas on a display together with format information including top margin, bottom margin, print line numbers in each page of the documents. See Usami, Abstract.

However, Usami is not seen to disclose or suggest accepting a selection of an attribute to be employed as an attribute of a new chapter, wherein the selection is between an attribute of an original chapter and another predetermined attribute, and wherein the selection is instructed using a selection menu screen.

Orr is not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Usami. In this regard, Orr is seen to disclose a method which adds content to a composition having a chosen design and automatically calculates a layout for the composition. See Orr, Abstract. A user interface 281 of a computer system includes a composition 282. Located within the composition 282 are a photograph 284 and an empty text region 286. The empty text region 286 may be represented by a particular text component that at this point has no context associated with it. In this example, a user wishes to drop content from a word processor 288 onto the composition 282. See Orr, Figure 19; and column 24, lines 8 to 16.

As such, Orr is seen to disclose the adding of content to a composition having a chosen design. However, Orr is not seen to disclose or suggest that an attribute of a new chapter can be employed from an attribute of an original chapter. As a consequence, Orr is not seen to disclose accepting a selection of an attribute to be employed as an attribute of a new chapter, wherein the selection is between an attribute of an original chapter and another predetermined attribute, and wherein the selection is instructed using a selection menu screen.

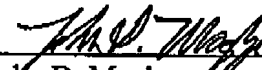
Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 7, 18, 20 and 23 as amended are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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